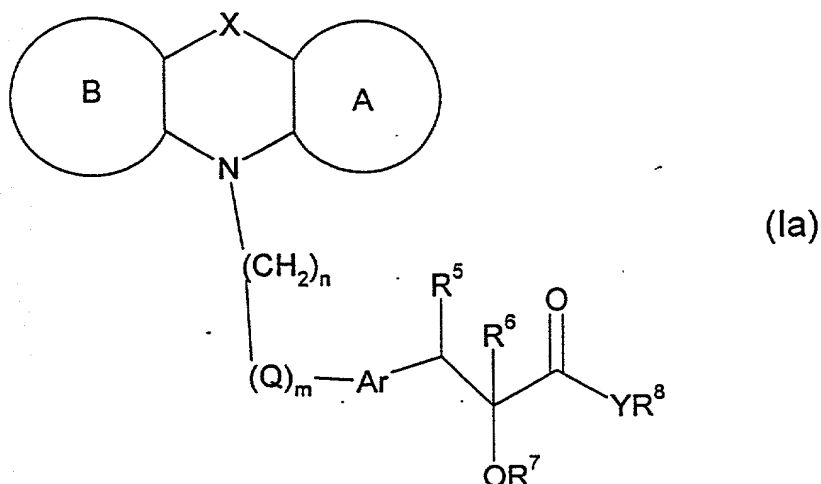


Claims:

1. A compound of formula (Ia)



wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, or C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₁₂alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylthio, thioC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, perhalomethyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy or amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

ring B fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, or C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₁₂alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl,

aralkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylthio, thioC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, perhalomethyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy or amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

X is a valence bond, -(CHR⁹)-, -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -O-(CHR⁹)-, -S-(CHR⁹)-, -(NR⁹)-CH₂-, -(CHR⁹)-CH=CH-, -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-CH₂-, -(C=O)-, -O-CH₂-O-, -(NR⁹)-, -(NR⁹)-S(O₂)-, -CH=(CR⁹)-, -(CO)-(CHR⁹)-, -CH₂-(SO)-, -S-, -(SO)-, -(SO₂)-, -CH₂-(SO₂)-, -CH₂-O-CH₂-, wherein R⁹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyalkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₁₂alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylthio, thioC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₆alkoxy, amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl;

Q is -O-, -S-, >SO₂, >NR¹³, wherein R¹³ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl,

Ar represents arylene, heteroarylene, or a divalent heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆alkyl or aryl;

R⁵ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R⁵ forms a bond together with R⁶,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₁₂alkoxy, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, acyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R⁶ forms a bond together with R⁵,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₁₋₁₂alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylaminocarbonyl, arylamino-carbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₄₋₁₂-alkenynyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NR¹⁰, where R¹⁰ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₁₂alkyl, aryl, hydroxyC₁₋₁₂alkyl or aralkyl groups or when Y is NR¹⁰, R⁸ and R¹⁰ may form a 5 or 6 membered nitrogen containing ring, optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆alkyl;

n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 0 to 1,

provided that A or B does not represent phenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₄₋₇-alkenynyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₇alkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₇alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkylthio, thioC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxcarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano.

3. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₄₋₇-alkenynyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₇alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkylthio, thioC₁₋₇alkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen or hydroxy;

4. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally

substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, arylamino, aryloxyC₁₋₇alkyl.

- 5 5. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy or aryl.
- 10 6. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring A fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen or halogen.
- 15 7. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring B fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₄₋₇-alkenynyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₇alkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₇alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkylthio, thioC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxcarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR¹¹, or -SO₂R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or amino optionally substituted with one or more C₁₋₆alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or
- 25 more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano.
- 30 8. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring B fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₄₋₇-alkenynyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₇alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkylthio, thioC₁₋₇alkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen or hydroxy.

9. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring B fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, arylamino, aryloxyC₁₋₇alkyl.

10. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring B fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy or aryl.

11. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein ring B fused to the ring containing X and N represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring, optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen or halogen.

12. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein X is a valence bond, -(CHR⁹)-, -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -O-(CHR⁹)-, -S-(CHR⁹)-, -(NR⁹)-CH₂-, -(CHR⁹)-CH=CH-, -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-CH₂-, -(C=O)-, -O-CH₂-O-, -(NR⁹)-, -(NR⁹)-S(O₂)-, -CH=(CR⁹)-, -(CO)-(CHR⁹)-, -CH₂-(SO)-, -S-, -(SO)-, -(SO₂)-, -CH₂-(SO₂)-, -CH₂-O-CH₂-, wherein R⁹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyalkyl, amino, acylamino, C₁₋₇alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aryloxyC₁₋₇alkyl, aralkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkylthio, thioC₁₋₇alkyl.

13. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein X is a valence bond, -(CHR⁹)-, -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -O-, -O-(CHR⁹)-, -S-(CHR⁹)-, -(NR⁹)-CH₂-, -(CHR⁹)-CH=CH-, -(CHR⁹)-CH₂-CH₂-, -(C=O)-, -O-CH₂-O-, -(NR⁹)-, -(NR⁹)-S(O₂)-, -CH=(CR⁹)-, -(CO)-(CHR⁹)-, -CH₂-(SO)-, -S-, -(SO)-, -(SO₂)-, -CH₂-(SO₂)-, -CH₂-O-CH₂-, wherein R⁹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxy, aryl.

14. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein X is a valence bond, $-(\text{CHR}^9)-$, $-(\text{CHR}^9)\text{-CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{O}-(\text{CHR}^9)-$, $-\text{S}-(\text{CHR}^9)-$, $-(\text{NR}^9)\text{-CH}_2-$, $-(\text{CHR}^9)\text{-CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-(\text{CHR}^9)\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2-$, $-(\text{C}=\text{O})-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2\text{-O}-$, $-(\text{NR}^9)\text{-S}(\text{O}_2)-$, $-\text{CH}=(\text{CR}^9)-$, $-(\text{CO})-(\text{CHR}^9)-$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO})-$, $-(\text{SO})-$, $-(\text{SO}_2)-$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO}_2)-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-O}-\text{CH}_2-$ wherein R^9 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy.

15. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein X is a valence bond, $-(\text{CHR}^9)-$, $-(\text{CHR}^9)\text{-CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{O}-(\text{CHR}^9)-$, $-(\text{CHR}^9)\text{-CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-(\text{CHR}^9)\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2-$, $-(\text{C}=\text{O})-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2\text{-O}-$, $-\text{CH}=(\text{CR}^9)-$, $-(\text{CO})-(\text{CHR}^9)-$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO})-$, $-(\text{SO})-$, $-(\text{SO}_2)-$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO}_2)-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-O}-\text{CH}_2-$, wherein R^9 is hydrogen.

16. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Q is $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{S}-$.

17. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Q is $-\text{O}-$.

18. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Ar represents arylene, heteroarylene, or a divalent heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl or aryl;

R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-7} alkoxy, C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{4-7} -alkenynyl, C_{2-7} -alkenyl, C_{2-7} -alkynyl; or R^5 forms a bond together with R^6 ,

R^6 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-7} alkoxy, C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{4-7} -alkenynyl, C_{2-7} -alkenyl, C_{2-7} -alkynyl; or R^6 forms a bond together with R^5 ,

R^7 represents hydrogen, C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{4-7} -alkenynyl, C_{2-7} -alkenyl, C_{2-7} -alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C_{1-7} alkoxy C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{1-7} alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, C_{1-7} alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups;

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{4-7} -alkenynyl, C_{2-7} -alkenyl, C_{2-7} -alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl;

Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NR^{10} , where R^{10} represents hydrogen, C_{1-7} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-7} alkyl;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is an integer ranging from 0 to 1.

19. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Ar represents arylene or heteroarylene,

R⁵ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen; or R⁵ forms a bond together with R⁶,

5 R⁶ represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen; or R⁶ forms a bond together with R⁵,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl, C₁₋₇alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups;

R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl,;

10 Y represents oxygen or sulphur;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is 1.

20. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Ar represents arylene or heteroarylene;

15 R⁵ represents hydrogen;

R⁶ represents hydrogen;

R⁷ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C₁₋₇alkoxyC₁₋₇alkyl;

R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₇alkyl, C₂₋₇-alkenyl, C₂₋₇-alkynyl,;

Y represents oxygen;

20 n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is 1.

21. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Ar represents arylene

R⁵ represents hydrogen;

R⁶ represents hydrogen;

25 R⁷ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄-alkenyl, C₂₋₄-alkynyl,

R⁸ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl,

Y represents oxygen;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is 1.

30 22. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Ar represents phenylene,

R⁵ represents hydrogen;

R⁶ represents hydrogen;

R⁷ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl,

R⁸ represents hydrogen

Y represents oxygen;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is 1.

5 23. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein A is 5 membered cyclic ring containing S.

24. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein B is 5 membered cyclic ring containing S.

10 25. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein X is -CH=(CR⁹)-, wherein R⁹ is H.

26. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein n is 2.

15 27. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Q is -O-.

28. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein m is 1.

20 29. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Ar is phenylene. In another preferred embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein R⁵ is H.

30. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein R⁶ is H.

25 31. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein R⁷ is ethyl.

32. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein Y is oxygen.

30 33. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein R⁸ is H.

34. The compound according to claim 1 which is:

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[f]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid,

5 3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

10 3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

15 3-{4-[1-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[1-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

20 3-{4-[1-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

25 3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

30 3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

2-Ethoxy-3-(4-(2-(9*H*-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,

2-methoxy-3-(4-(2-(9*H*-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,

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- 2-propoxy-3-(4-(2-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(2-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(1-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(1-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
5 2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(1-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
10 2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(9H-1,8,10-triaza-anthracen-10-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(2-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
15 2-methoxy-3-(4-(2-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(2-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(1-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(1-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(1-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
20 2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
25 2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(4,5,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(2-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(2-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
30 2-propoxy-3-(4-(2-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(2-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(1-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(1-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(1-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,

- 2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(1-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 5 2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(1,8,9-triaza-fluoren-9-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
 10 3-(4-(2-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(2-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(2-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(2-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(1-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
 15 3-(4-(1-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(1-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(1-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
 20 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
 25 3-(4-(3-(dithieno[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(2-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(2-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(2-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(2-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
 30 3-(4-(1-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(1-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(1-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(1-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
 3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

- 3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
5 3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,*
3-(4-(3-(difurano[2,3-*b*;3',2'-*d*]pyrrol-7-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(2-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(2-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
10 3-(4-(2-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(2-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(1-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(1-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(1-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
15 3-(4-(1-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
20 3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-(4-(3-(4*H*-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(2-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
25 2-methoxy-3-(4-(2-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(2-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(2-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(2-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-ethoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(1-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
30 2-methoxy-3-(4-(1-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-propoxy-3-(4-(1-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(1-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-methoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,

2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propoxy)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-ethoxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-methoxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
5 2-propoxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid,
2-benzyloxy-3-(4-(3-(4-oxa-1,7-dithia-8-aza-s-indacen-8-yl)-propyl)-phenyl)-propionic acid;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. The compound according to claim 1 which is:

10 3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-
propionic acid;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a compound
15 according to any one of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

37. A composition according to claim 36 in unit dosage form, comprising from about 0.05 to
20 about 100 mg, preferably from about 0.1 to about 50 mg of the compound according to any-
one of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

38. A pharmaceutical composition useful in the treatment and/or prevention of conditions
mediated by nuclear receptors, in particular the Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors
(PPAR), the composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a compound according to any-
25 one of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof
together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

39. A pharmaceutical composition useful in the treatment and/or prevention of diabetes
and/or obesity, the composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a compound according
30 to anyone of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof
together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

40. A pharmaceutical composition for diabetes and/or obesity, the composition comprising,
as an active ingredient, a compound according to anyone of the preceding compound claims

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

41. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of the claims 36-40 for oral, nasal,
5 transdermal, pulmonal, or parenteral administration.

42. A method for the treatment of ailments, the method comprising administering to a subject
in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to anyone of the preceding
compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or of a composition
10 according to any one of the preceding composition claims.

43. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of conditions mediated by nuclear
receptors, in particular the Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPAR), the method
comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound
15 according to any one of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof, or of a composition according to anyone of the preceding claims 36-41.

44. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of diabetes and/or obesity, the method
comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound
20 according to anyone of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof, or of a composition according to anyone of the preceding claims 36-41.

45. The method according to claims 42-44, wherein the effective amount of the compound
according to anyone of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable
25 salt or ester thereof is in the range of from about 0.05 to about 100 mg per day, preferably
from about 0.1 to about 50 mg per day.

46. Use of a compound according to anyone of the preceding compound claims or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament.

47. Use of a compound according to anyone of the preceding compound claims or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament useful in the
treatment and/or prevention of conditions mediated by nuclear receptors, in particular the
30 Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPAR).

48. Use of a compound according to anyone of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament for treatment and/or prevention of diabetes and/or obesity.

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49. Use of a compound according to anyone of the preceding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament for treatment and/or prevention of diabetes and obesity.

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